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Rec'd: March 31, 1962
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FROM: Taipei

TO: Secretary of State EYES ONLY

NO: 661, March 31, 2 p.m.

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Martin Wong, GRC Minister Washington, told Haraldson that at meeting with President Chiang March 30 latter expressed view that MAAG and other US military on Taiwan and possibly even Pentagon are behind him in his efforts build up GRC military and his attempt at mainland recovery. Chiang pointed out MAP deliveries actually being made ahead of schedule while economic program meeting delays which he thought were deliberate. Wong said this leads Chiang to believe US military behind him while State Department and AID are not. Wong added he did not know whether Chiang's conviction resulted from impressions received from US military or had been implanted by MND, but in any case he thought it was very deep conviction. Wong also said Chiang discounted Governor Harriman's views as he felt he spoke for State Department rather than US Government. Wong explained it was difficult for Chiang to understand civilians had authority over military in some countries. In Wong's view only persons Chiang prepared listen to were those who spoke for Pentagon and action or argument by Embassy or AID mission likely be ineffectual in dissuading him.

Wong said he warned Chiang of possible serious economic consequences of continued heavy expenditures by military. Chiang indicated he was aware of this implied confidence US would step in with more aid if situation became bad enough.

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-2- 661, March 31, 2 p.m., from Taipei

Comment: Embassy unable judge how accurately Wong reporting Chiang's views, but his report conforms to previous evidence Chiang places more confidence in military than in State Department. Consequently, it is extremely important that in any action taken to urge operations US military play important role.

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